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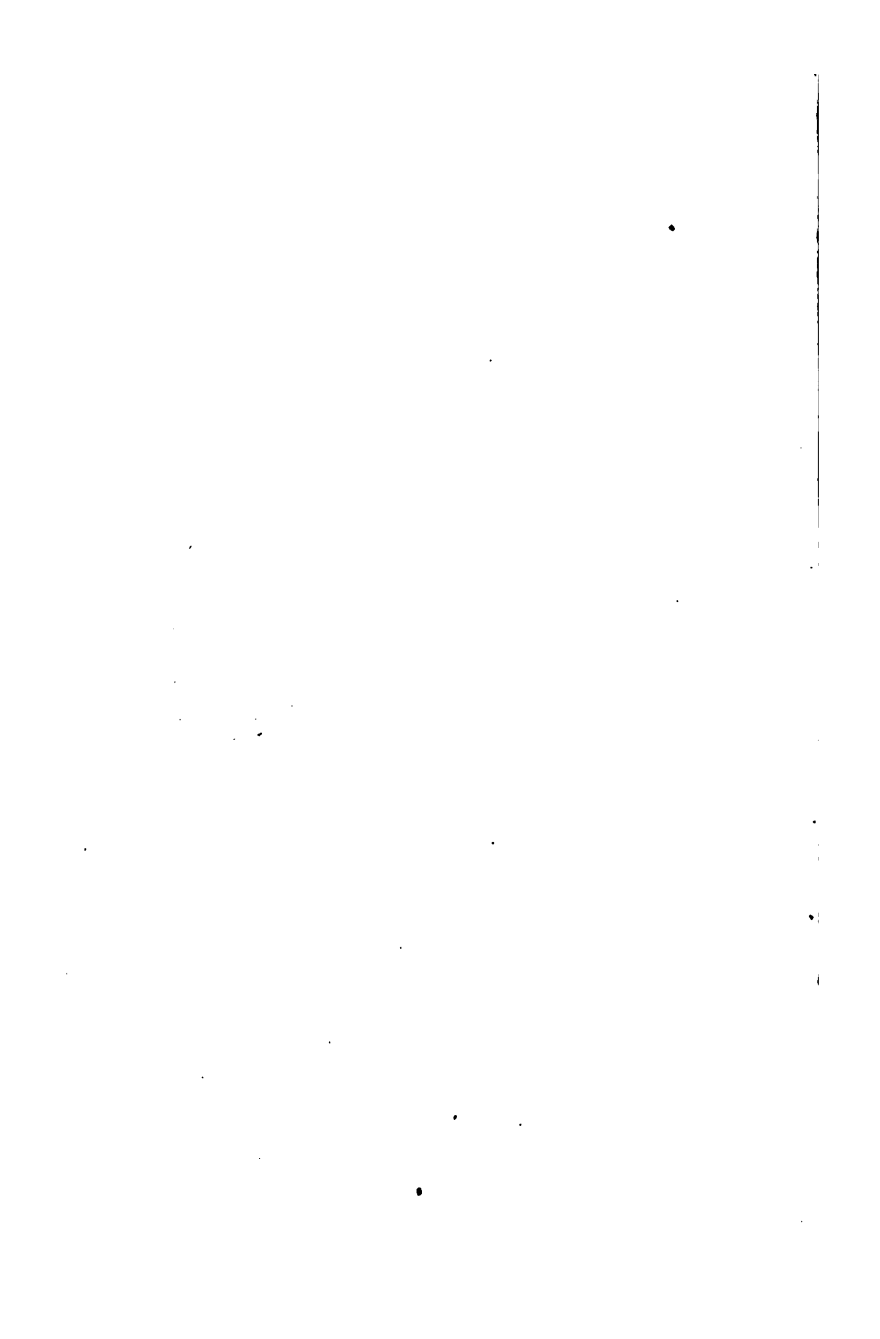
ALPHABET



OF EMBLEMS

44. 700.





AN
ALPHABET
OF
E M B L E M S.

BY THE
REV. T. B. MURRAY, M.A.



A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.
PROV. xxv. 11.

LONDON:
FRANCIS & JOHN RIVINGTON,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD, & WATERLOO PLACE.
1844.

LONDON:
GILBERT AND RIVINGTON, PRINTERS,
ST. JOHN'S SQUARE.

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¹ See SOUTHERY'S *Sir Thomas More*, Colloquy XV., vol. ii. p. 305. Ed. 1831.

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A



ARK.

I.

WHEN winds were loud, and from the sky
Pour'd down a flood of rain ;
And trees on hills, and mountains high,
Were cover'd with the main ;

II.

The ARK securely floated o'er
The wide and stormy sea,
And to a place of safety bore
A favour'd family ¹.

¹ Gen. viii. 4.

III.

His holy name they there ador'd,
He heard their voices rise ;
And there they offered to the Lord
A grateful sacrifice.

IV.

The dove regain'd her place of rest,
The waters sunk away² ;
Thus God His faithful children bless'd,
Amidst a world's decay.

V.

He promised that returns of food,
And seasons should not fail³ ;
And that the waters of a flood
Should never more prevail⁴.

VI.

Four thousand years and more have pass'd
Since God ordain'd it so ;
And has that promise fail'd to last ?
The past will answer, No :

VII.

Whilst goods in plenty yet remain,
For health and food design'd ;
Our fields and garners full of grain,
And store of every kind⁵.

² Gen. viii. 12, 13.³ Gen. viii. 22.⁴ Gen. ix. 11.⁵ Ps. cxliv. 13.

VIII.

Then render thanks to God on high ;
Whose mercy knows no bound ;
Who does our daily wants supply,
And brings the seasons round.

IX.

When in the cloud you see the bow⁶,
Giv'n to a ransom'd race,
Remember Him, and learn to know
His providence and grace.

⁶ Gen. ix. 12—17.

B



BIBLE.

I.

THERE is an ancient blessed Book,
Sent down from age to age,
The wond'ring Angels bend to look
Upon its hallow'd page¹.

II.

Preserved by wond'rous care and skill,
Into our hands 'tis given ;
It speaks of God, and shows His will,
And points the way to heaven.

III.

Within it shines the Saviour's love,
Who did for sinners die,
And sent His Spirit from above
Our hearts to sanctify.

¹ 1 Pet. i. 12.

IV.

Like some vast storehouse, it contains
Sufficient for our need ;
Without this store, with all our gains,
We should be poor indeed.

V.

The soul that's hungry finds supply,
The feeble soul relief,
The sorrowful a comfort nigh,
In every time of grief.

VI.

Whether in palace or in cot,
'Midst costly things or fair,
So rich a treasure dwelleth not,
Nor ornament so rare ^a.

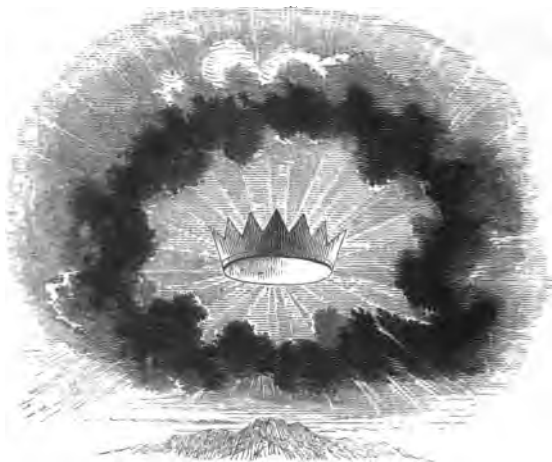
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A poor sick man, by sorrow tried,
This Book alone possess'd ;
"I have," said he, "no book beside,
But then it is the best ^b."

VIII.

O let us seek for heavenly grace
To hear and read aright ;
Till we behold the Saviour's face,
And faith gives place to sight.

C



CROWN.

I.

WHEN in the Isthmian games of old
They struggled for the prize,
The youth of Greece, robust and bold,
Sought praise in human eyes.

II.

Was it a combat or a race?
No effort gave them pain;
Each show'd a stern undaunted face,
Each tried the prize to gain¹.

¹ See 1 Cor. ix. 24, to the end.

III.

And some, we read, who honour wrought,
As foremost in the field,
Did life despise, since life, they thought,
Had nothing more to yield^c.

IV.

But what the guerdon after all?
A scanty laurel wreath,
Some shining leaves that soon must fall
Into the dust of death.

V.

'Tis well; we blame not pains and toil
When chasten'd and controll'd;
He who would gather honest spoil
Shrinks not from heat and cold.

VI.

The young competitor for fame
Some pleasures must forego;
He pampers not his mortal frame,
But tames and keeps it low.

VII.

Is he a Christian? He perceives,
As candidate for heav'n,
Not olive, bay, or laurel-leaves,
By man's election giv'n;

VIII.

But treasured up above the skies,
A CROWN of heav'nly mould,
A fragrant, fresh, unfading prize ²,
More rich than gems and gold.

IX.

Would'st gain it? Run th' appointed race
Without reproach or fear ⁴;
Toward Zion set thy stedfast face ³,
Nor long to linger here.

X.

Yet, Champion! look to God on high ⁴;
Thy surest strength is He;
For if thou striv'st not lawfully,
No crown remains for thee ⁵.

² 1 Pet. i. 34.³ Jer. i. 5.⁴ Heb. xii. 1, 2.⁵ 2 Tim. ii. 5.

D



DIAL.

I.

I WOKE, and, rising from my bed,
Walk'd forth in morning prime ;
And on a DIAL-plate I read
These words, "~~Redeem~~ the Time¹."

II.

"O then," I said, "let me employ
The moments as they fly,
And render my account with joy,
Whene'er I come to die."

¹ Eph. v. 16. Col. iv. 5.

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¹ See SOUTHERN'S *Sir Thomas More*, Colloquy XV., vol. ii. p. 305. Ed. 1831.

E



EAGLE.

I.

THERE is not any living thing
Throughout this wondrous frame,
That doth not praise our God, and bring
Fresh honour to His name¹.

II.

Though wicked men refuse to give
The glory that's His due,
Still as they think, and speak, and live,
They pay this tribute too.

¹ Ps. cxlv. 10.

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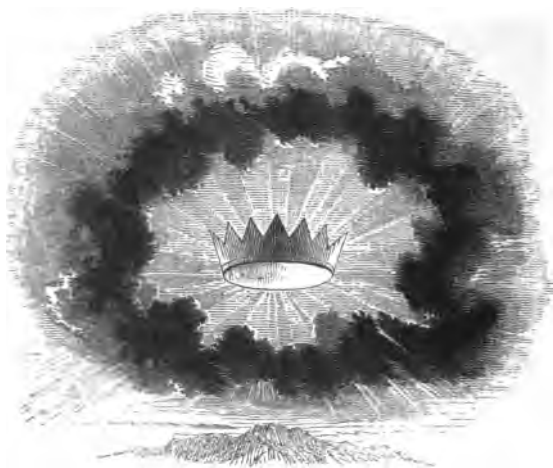
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The young competitor for fame
Some pleasures must forego;
He pampers not his mortal frame,
But tames and keeps it low.

VII.

Is he a Christian? He perceives,
As candidate for heav'n,
Not olive, bay, or laurel-leaves,
By man's election giv'n;

III.

Let children think of this, and know
What pains a parent takes,
Encounters danger, suffers woe,
All for those children's sakes.

IV.

May they refrain from language rude,
Nor show by acts unkind,
That hard and cold ingratitude
Is harbour'd in the mind.

V.

Let Christians in this emblem scan
Their Saviour's constant love ¹,
Who for our sakes became a man,
And left His throne above.

VI.

He wept to see a wicked race
His fost'ring mercy spurn,
Behind them throw His proffer'd grace,
And still refuse to turn ².

VII.

How oft would He have brought them in,
His rest and peace to share ;
But they preferr'd the paths of sin
To His Almighty care.

¹ Matt. xxiii. 37.

² Luke xix. 41—45

I



INN.

I.

WHEN journeying through a desert place,
Ere he his home can win,
The Traveller views with smiling face
The welcome of an INN.

II.

Refresh'd by food and sweet repose,
Again he's on his way ;
His object and his path, he knows,
Admit of no delay.

III.

And such does human life appear ;
'Tis not our lasting home :
We've no continuing city here,
We seek for one to come ¹.

IV.

Like tents unroll'd and pitch'd to-day,
To-morrow quickly furl'd ²,
And seen no longer, is our stay
In this uncertain world.

V.

Now, pilgrims bent their homes to gain,
And treasured rest to find,
Can surely bear a little rain,
A little dust and wind.

VI.

Not that to them shall be denied
True pleasure's cheerful glow ;
Nay, they have more of joy supplied
Than worldly men can know.

VII.

For they can taste the streams, and cull
The fruits and flow'rs with care ;
Admire whate'er is beautiful,
Examine what is rare.

¹ Heb. xlii. 14.

² Isal. xxxvlii. 12. 2 Cor. v. 1.

VIII.

But "Onward, onward!" is the word,
While aught remains to do³;
Why should the journey be deferr'd?
Their city is in view.

IX.

And when they reach their home, and gaze
Upon the vale they've trod,
Cheer'd by the sun's declining rays,
They own the hand of God³.

³ Heb. xi. 13—17.

J



JUDGE.

I.

THE JUDGE is seated, and the hall,
Though throng'd, is silent as the tomb ;
While prisoners, at the crier's call,
In mute suspense await their doom.

II.

Ye who have seen the solemn state
Of earthly trials, learn, I pray,
With serious hearts to contemplate
The doings of the Judgment-day.

III.

For the day is onward stealing,
Even now is nigh at hand,
When the Lord, his arm revealing,
Judge of all the earth shall stand !

IV.

Once the suffering, and the humble,
He shall bid, with awful voice,
Kingdoms of the world to crumble,
And the righteous to rejoice.

V.

Then the bosom-sin forbidden
From its hold is torn away ;
Secret things no longer hidden,
They are judged in open day.

VI.

Then the bold perverse transgressor
Quakes at the eternal word ;
Justice crushes the oppressor,
And the widow's cause is heard.

VII.

Let us not despise the warning
Often given, but be led
Now to work while it is morning ;
Night may find us with the dead ¹.

¹ John ix. 4.

VIII.

Patient child of present sorrow,
If thou seek'st Religion's staff,
There shall shine a glorious morrow ;
Weep to-day, for thou shalt laugh ².

IX.

Ye whose joyance knows no measure,
Though ye fill the goblet deep,
Running o'er with sinful pleasure,
Laugh to-day, but ye shall weep.

X.

Sinner, seek a true repentance,
Turn to Christ, no longer stay ;
Or expect the dreadful sentence,
“ Hence to judgment, hence away ³ ! ”

² Luke vi. 21. 25.

³ See Matt. xxv. 31, to the end.

K



KING.

I.

THE Bible tells us of a KING,
With wealth and power endow'd :
Yet, far above each earthly thing,
The Lord on him bestow'd

II.

A wise and understanding heart,
Of large and ample view ;
And made him able to impart
To others all he knew,

III.

Beasts, fishes, birds, he wrote of all,
Of insects wing'd for flight,
Of little flow'rs that fringed the wall,
And cedars' tow'ring height ^h.

IV.

Though vast his knowledge and his sway,
He knew they had a bound ;
For He who gave could take away,
And cast them to the ground.

V.

Hence while in wisdom's path he trod,
Full oft did he enforce
That golden rule, The fear of God
Is wisdom's root and source ¹.

VI.

The Saviour reigns ! a greater He
Than kings of earthly fame ² ;
His Holy Spirit calls on thee
To fear Jehovah's name ³.

¹ Prov. ix. 10.² Matt. xii. 42.

Luke xii. 5.

VII.

And let the weighty truth remain,
Stored in thy memory here,
That human knowledge is in vain
Without this holy fear.

VIII.

'Tis not a guilty slave's affright,
Who dreads th' avenging rod ;
But fear lest thou offend the sight,
Or lose the praise of God.

L



LION.

I.

A LION, roaring for his prey,
Came bounding forth, and spied
A Traveller upon his way
Along the mountain's side.

II.

Though death itself seem nigh at hand,
No Christian need despair ;
Our Traveller knelt upon the sand,
And sought the Lord in prayer.

III.

Then, as he rose with dauntless look,
His savage foe to brave,
The monster his design forsook,
And gat him to his cave ¹.

IV.

Thus Satan, though unseen, we know,
In all his guile and power,
On earth still wandering to and fro,
Seeks whom he may devour ¹.

V.

Beware, though his advance be made
In semblance fair to see ;
Resist him with the Spirit's aid,
And he will turn and flee.

VI.

Think how the youthful David slew
The Lion in his pride ;
How by his heav'n-taught valour too,
Gath's godless champion died ².

¹ 1 Pet. v. 8, 9.² 1 Sam. xvii. 34, 35. 50.

VII.

Remember Samson's mighty arm ³;
And Daniel's faith record,
Whom rav'ning Lions could not harm,
Because he feared the Lord ⁴.

VIII.

And O! that Prophet's end survey,
Who made not God his trust;
A Lion met him by the way,
And laid him in the dust ⁵.

³ Judg. xiv. 5, 6.⁴ Dan. vi. 22, &c.⁵ 1 Kings xiii. 24.

M



MYRTLE.

I.

WHERE once the desert look'd forlorn,
Fresh flowers and herbage grow ;
And for the briar and the thorn
The rose and MYRTLE blow¹.

II.

How pleasantly their shade they fling,
And spread their sweets around,
Fed by the cooling water-spring
That bursts from barren ground.

¹ Isai. xxxv. 1 ; xli. 19 ; lv. 13.

III.

O wondrous power, the scene to change,
And life and health afford ;
And make the frowning desert's range
The garden of the Lord².

IV.

Where idol gods their temples rear'd,
With rites too foul to tell,
Now in the forest glade is heard
The sweet-toned Sabbath bell.

V.

And there our holy Church imparts
Its blessings to our race,
Who join its fold with thankful hearts,
And seek the Saviour's face.

VI.

As we, beneath our favour'd skies,
E'en so do they rejoice
To see the village spire arise,
And hear their pastor's voice.

VII.

How many a lonely place doth want
Such culture and such care !
Then let us lend our aid to plant
The rose and myrtle there¹.

¹ Isai. li. 3.

N



NEST.

I.

THE parent bird that quits her Nest,
O'er distant hills to roam,
Returns to share, in peace and rest,
The dear delights of home.

II.

And ever and anon of food
She brings a full supply,
Whilst warmly stow'd her infant brood
Join in a merry cry.

III.

Her offspring, too, that leaves its place,
With fancied joys in store,
Is glad its steps again to trace,
And find its home once more.

IV.

And there, among a happy throng,
Perch'd safely o'er the steep,
It tunes its voice, and tries a song,
Then sings itself to sleep.

V.

How sad, within this narrow bound,
Should rage and discord reign :
How rich are other blessings found,
Where love and peace remain.

VI.

Then strife and bickering hence away ;
Good-will and love increase !
So shall yon little nest portray
The sweets of household peace.

VII.

'Tis fragrant as the oil that flow'd
On Aaron's honour'd head,
Strength'ning as dew by heaven bestow'd,
O'er Hermon's mountains spread ¹.

¹ See Psalm cxxxiii.

O



OAK.

I.

BEHOLD this OAK, how large, how fair,
Its trunk and branches grow ;
High as it waves its arms in air,
It strikes its roots below.

II.

In noon day heat the panting flocks
Beneath its shade are led ;
The wearied eagle leaves the rocks,
And settles on its head.

III.

The northern blast, and midnight breeze,
Assail its strength in vain ;
It braves them all, while other trees
Lie scatter'd on the plain.

IV.

Perchance 'twill breast the ocean-tide
In ages yet to come ;
Uprear a wall 'gainst foreign pride,
And guard our island home.

V.

This forest giant, vast of girth,
Was once an acorn small,
And rested in the silent earth,
A tiny cup and ball.

VI.

Then praise the wonder-working Hand
Which raised it from the ground,
Combined its parts, its uses plann'd
With care and skill profound.

VII.

For He whose name is Wonderful
Bestow'd the form you see,
And from a body cold and dull
Hath framed this glorious tree.

VIII.

Thus man to kindred dust consign'd,
In dust shall not remain ;
He too a spreading root shall find,
And he shall rise again ¹.

¹ 1 Cor. xv. 35—39.

P



PEACOCK.

I.

PROUD of his bright and spreading train,
And steps that spurn the ground,
Fit emblem of the weak and vain,
The PEACOCK gazes round.

II.

He gazes for applause ; but when
His feathers droop and fade,
Ashamed he shuns th' abode of men,
And seeks his native shade.

III.

No more the gallant bird and gay,
That Israel's monarch prized ¹,
Or heroes honour'd in their day,
But mean, forlorn, despised ².

IV.

The crest is fall'n that tower'd so high ;
The plume from yonder bough,
That shone like Argus' blazing eye ¹,
Is dull and draggled now.

V.

Thus changed a lesson he conveys,
And warning to the young,
Who love the honour, fame, and praise,
That to the world belong.

VI.

What are the grace and ornament
Of beauty, wealth, or power ?
A trust assign'd, a treasure lent,
Possessions of an hour.

¹ 1 Kings x. 22.

VII.

The eyes that flash'd with pride of life,
The high unbending form,
The hands that minister'd to strife,
Must mingle with the worm.

VIII.

Shall earth and ashes then be proud ?
No ! each event we scan
Proclaims in language clear and loud,
Pride was not made for man ².

IX.

Let us our best adorning find,
Not in display or dress :
The spirit meek, the quiet mind,
This, this is loveliness.

X.

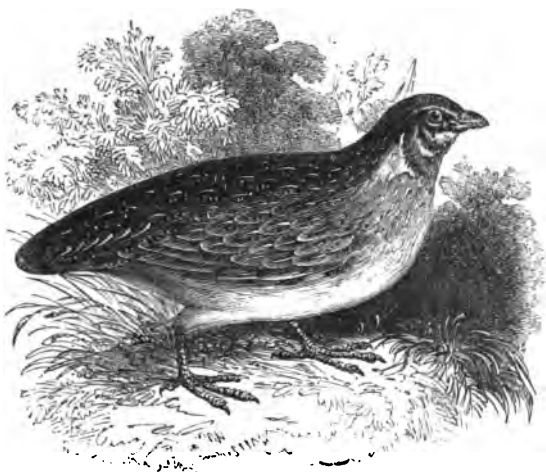
More rich than gold, than gems more bright,
A temper sweet and mild
Is precious in Jehovah's sight ³,
And decks the Christian child.

XI.

The grace that in excitement lives
May sparkle for a day ;
But that the Holy Spirit gives
Shall never fade away.

² Ecclus. x. 9. 18.³ 1 Pet. iii. 3, 4.

Q



QUAIL.

I.

WHEN trav'ling through the wilderness
Tow'rds Canaan's promised land,
The Israelites in their distress
Withstood Jehovah's hand.

II.

From Horeb's rock the people saw
Refreshing streams descend,
Yet still they scorn'd God's perfect law,
Nor knew Him as their friend ¹.

¹ Exod. xvii. 6, 7.

III.

They murmur'd loud for want of bread,
And felt their need supplied ;
The QUAILS around the camp were spread
For miles on either side ².

IV.

Nor this alone : the Manna flow'd
In stores by heav'n increas'd ³ ;
Type of the heav'nly bread bestow'd
At the Redeemer's feast ⁴.

V.

When of these "feathered fowls" I read,
The Manna, and the Rock ⁵,
I learn that God will surely feed
The children of His flock.

VI.

And let me meditate with fear,
When sinful thoughts molest,
How few who shared His blessings here
Inherited His rest ⁶.

² Numb. xi. 31, 32.³ Exod. xvi. 13—16.⁴ John vi. 49—59.⁵ Ps. lxxviii. 17. 25. 28 ; cv. 39, 40.⁶ Heb. iii. 11 ; iv. 1.

R



RAINBOW.

I.

I saw a beauteous arch to-day,
Whose colours, soft and bright,
Spann'd the fair fields, and stretch'd away
In distance out of sight.

II.

Beneath that arch of sun and rain
Refreshing 'twas to view
The trees and meadows, cot, and lane,
Tinged with a golden hue.

III.

The morning past, I saw the noon
Its field of blue display,
Dissolve the rainbow-tints, and soon
Bring in a beaming day,

IV.

The glorious sun, array'd in gold,
Came forth in all his pride ;
The frowning clouds away were roll'd,
And nature's tears were dried.

V.

Such is this little life of ours :
Then let us not despair ;
But hope that though the morning lours,
The day shall still be fair.

VI.

Who was it fix'd with gracious hand
Yon bow in nature's face ?
The same Almighty Lord who plann'd
The Covenant of Grace.

VII.

He who assign'd in heav'n above
A RAINBOW round the throne¹,
Emblem of perfect light,—and love
To ransom'd sinners shown.

¹ Rev. iv. 3.

VIII.

Then what, through life, though storms distress ?
The day is near at hand,
Wherein the Sun of Righteousness
Shall bless His chosen band.

IX.

Confess His counsels always right,
E'en those least understood ;
Th' Almighty Lord of life and light
Will make His promise good.

S



SOWER.

I.

“PLOUGH up your land¹!” the Master cried,
“Then let your care be shown
In scatt’ring handfuls far and wide ;
This field shall all be sown.”

II.

’Tis done. The SOWER treads the land,
Marks well the furrows’ train ;
Expend his store with liberal hand,
And casts the golden grain.

¹ See Jer. iv. 3.

III.

Come, gentle rain; shine out, O Sun!
The buried seed to bless;
And now the SOWER's work is done,
Kind Heav'n, vouchsafe success!

IV.

May we the joyful summons hear;
"The reaping time is come;
The corn is high, and full in ear,
O happy harvest home!"

V.

By emblems such as these the Lord
Would saving truths impart:
He tells us that the seed's the word³;
The ground the human heart.

VI.

Though mortal hands the seed have sown,
And water'd well the ground,
In God and in His help alone
The increase can be found⁴.

VII.

And angel reapers shall appear
Earth's ripen'd crop to reap⁵;
O let me then with soul sincere
The rich deposit keep.

² See Rev. xiv. 15.

³ Luke viii. 4—16.

⁴ 1 Cor. iii. 6, 7.

⁵ Matt. xiii. 30.

VIII.

The seed which fell on beaten ground
Was quickly caught away ;
And that on stony places found
No root the plant to stay.

IX.

And tangling thorns did grievous ill
To many a bud of grace ;
These are the cares and joys that kill
The soul with their embrace.

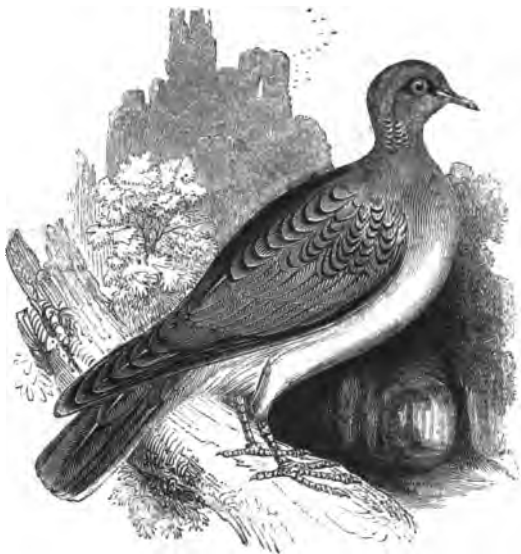
X.

But what are those with ripen'd store,
That shine like wavy gold,
Some thirty, sixty, less, or more,
And some an hundred-fold ?

XI.

In humble hearts and honest they
Receive and understand
The word ; and at the judgment day
Shall stand at God's right hand.

T



TURTLE-DOVE.

I.

WHEN good Nathanael's praise I read,
In Scripture's page renown'd,
"Behold an Israelite indeed,
In whom no guile is found¹ ;"

II.

Methinks his fame is higher far
Than kings or heroes gain,
Who reap their laurels in the war,
But not without a stain.

¹ See John i. 47.

III.

The gentle words that banish strife
Our common joys increase² ;
But what is home, and what is life,
Without the bond of peace ?

IV.

Then would'st thou earn the Saviour's praise,
Whose eye regards the young ;
Let meek discretion guide thy ways,
And kindness rule thy tongue.

V.

So shalt thou learn to keep in sight
The wisdom from above ;
With circumspection to unite
The mildness of the Dove³.

VI.

Sweet bird ! her guileless ways I know ;
Then let me learn from thence,
To study peace where'er I go,
And never give offence.

VII.

Do thou, blest Spirit, source of peace,
Thy heav'nly grace impart ;
Bid every angry passion cease
And sanctify my heart.

² Prov. xv. 1.³ See Matt. x. 16.

U



USURER.

I.

THE USURER counts his weekly gains,
And plies his labour late ;
Behold with what a miser's pains
He tries his money's weight.

II.

Unhallow'd treasure ! wrung from those
Who now their folly rue ;
Be sure the man who borrowing goes
Will soon go sorrowing too ^m.

III.

Would'st shun the lender's fangs? Remain
From vain expenses free,
And labour truly to retain
Thy bread and liberty.

IV.

Man's real wants may soon be told ;
Why shouldst thou add to these?
Thou canst not pay for cloth of gold ;
Then buy thee cloth of frieze.

V.

Though straitened in thy yearly store,
Within its compass live :
Nay, as thou may'st, by labouring more,
To him that needeth give ¹.

VI.

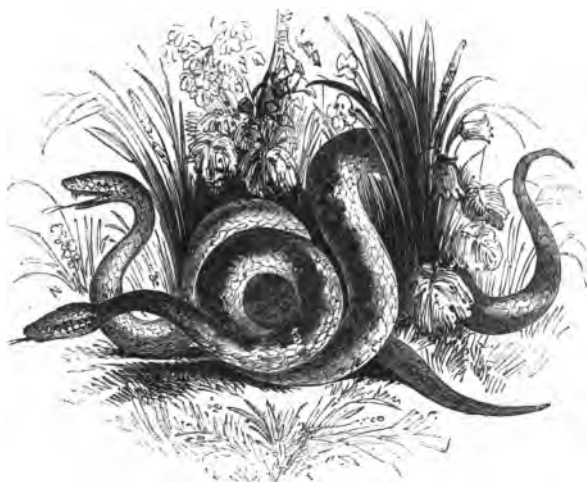
Then shall no creditor waylay,
Nor heartless Usurer grind ;
The only debt thou'lt have to pay
Is mercy to mankind ².

VII.

That debt is binding while we live ;
For He who came from heaven
Enjoin'd us freely to forgive,
If we would be forgiven ³.

¹ Eph. iv. 28.² Rom. xiii. 8.³ Mark xi. 25. Luke vi. 37.

V



VIPER.

I.

I SAW a VIPER on the heath ;
'Twas beautiful and bright :
Its eyes were fix'd, and cold as death,
But clear as living light.

II.

I saw that snake its body raise
In circles from the ground ;
Then dart its tongue as lightning plays,
And try to give a wound.

III.

Its hissing sounds of bad intent,
Its folds in anger twin'd,
Its venom-tooth on mischief bent,
With horror fill'd my mind.

IV.

Then said I, Have I never seen
In human form array'd,
That snake-like look, that hateful mien,
That venom'd tongue display'd?

V.

O yes, when graceless children dare
To give a Father pain ;
Or recompense a Mother's care
With fierceness or disdain.

VI.

For parents feel the bitter truth,
When taunted or revil'd,
" 'Tis sharper than a serpent's tooth
To have a thankless child ⁿ."

VII.

Then, children, fail not to respect
Your tenderest tie on earth ;
Nor treat with insult or neglect
The authors of your birth ¹.

¹ Exod. xx. 12. Ephes. vi. 1—3.

W



WELL.

I.

THE Traveller, parch'd with summer's glow,
Delights to rest, and taste
The cool refreshing streams that flow
O'er India's houseless waste.

II.

He feels the water's strengthening aid
In tracts of burning sand ;
And hails the Rock's reviving shade
Amidst a weary land ¹.

¹ Isai. xxxii. 2.

III.

Such comfort in the world around
Do Christian pilgrims trace,
Whose best delight and rest are found
In Christ's restoring grace ².

IV.

Messiah's Rock, Salvation's Well ³,
Their course on earth attend;
Whilst higher bliss than tongue can tell
Awaits their journey's end.

V.

What blessings on our native land
Doth God in mercy pour!
His gifts of grace are near at hand,
We meet them at our door.

VI.

May we receive the boon aright,
His benefits employ,
And help to spread the life and light
Which we ourselves enjoy.

² 1 Cor. x. 4.³ Isai. xli. 3.

X



XERXES.

I.

O'ER Asia's plains extended wide,
A conquering army lay ;
'Twas warlike Persia's youth and pride
In beautiful array.

II.

The bearing high, the aspect bold
Those gallant soldiers wore,
E'en as the hopeful spring-time, told
Of happy days in store.

III.

But what are days, and what are years?
As scythes among the grass.
The blossom fades and disappears,
And all its glories pass¹.

IV.

Yes, scythe and plough must have their range,
And spoil the verdant scene;
Then who shall say 'midst nature's change,
Where grass and flowers have been?

V.

Thus XERXES felt; and said with tears,
"Of all this shining train,
Alas, within a hundred years,
No vestige will remain."

VI.

He wept to think each manly form,
All vigorous and brave,
Must soon inhabit with the worm
The chambers of the grave.

VII.

He traced amidst those hours of gloom,
When death must claim his bond,
The midnight terrors of the tomb,
But saw no light beyond.

¹ Isai. xl. 6—9. 1 Pet. i. 24. James i. 10, 11.

VIII.

How different was the view reveal'd
To good Ezekiel's eyes,
When in the silent burial-field
He saw the dead arise.

IX.

Sinew with flesh, and bone with bone,
Burst from their narrow span;
Each frame, in wondrous order grown,
Uprose a living man².

X.

To feel that we so soon must die,
And every head lie low,—
Shall this bedew the Christian's eye,
Or fill his breast with woe?

XI.

No, though ere long that resting-place,
Which seems so dark and lone,
Must hold him in its strong embrace,
Yet there he shall be known.

XII.

There will the Saviour's gracious hand
Enlighten his retreat,
And ope its gates that he may stand
Before His judgment-seat³.

² See Ezek. xxxvii. 1—10.

³ Rom. xiv. 10.

Y



YOKE.

I.

“ENDURE restraint?” the young man cried,
“The hard decree revoke;
On slaves alone such rules be tried,
I cannot bear a YOKE.”

II.

O yes, without a yoke the young
Are lost in error's way¹;
The heart uncheck'd, the reckless tongue,
Are sure to go astray.

¹ Lam. iii. 27.

III.

See how unruly souls proceed,
As spreading waves o'erwhelm,
Or rushes forth th' unbridled steed,
Or ship without an helm².

IV.

The will that prompts each act and thought,
If left without control,
What worlds of mischief it hath wrought,
What ruin of the soul !

V.

The child that spurns, like horse or mule³,
The government of God,
Must wear a chain in Satan's school,
And feel a tyrant's rod.

VI.

Take Jesus' yoke ; be wise in time ;
To His command attend ;
And dedicate your morning prime
To Him, your truest Friend.

VII.

Then shalt thou never have to mourn
In dark affliction's night :
His yoke is easy to be borne,
His burden too is light⁴.

² James iii. 8—9.³ Ps. xxxii. 10.⁴ Matt. xi. 29, 30.

Z



ZACCHEUS.

I.

COME down, ZACCHEUS, from the tree !
The word of truth and grace ¹
Invites thee to descend, and see
Thy Saviour face to face.

II.

What happiness awaits thy home,
To hear the Saviour's voice ;
" Salvation to this house is come :"
Well may that house rejoice ².

¹ John i. 14.

² See Luke xix. 2—10.

III.

And can I Jesus' face behold?
And may I seek His side?
Yes, Christian, see the Church unfold
Its solemn portals wide.

IV.

Without Zaccheus' dangerous care,
Thy blessing is the same;
Where two or three in fervent prayer,
Are met in Jesus' name,

V.

There in the midst will He be found³,
Their Prophet, Priest, and King,
There spread His richest blessings round,
And His salvation bring.

VI.

Then never fail, though small and weak,
To follow in His ways,
Nor grudge a little pains to seek
His face in prayer and praise.

VII.

At home, abroad, in business' press,
His glory keep in view;
Thus shall the Lord's salvation bless
Thee and thy household too.

³ Matt. xviii. 20.

NOTES.

* "The fairest flower that ever clomb up a cottage window is not so fair a sight to my eyes as the Bible gleaming through the lower panes." *CONFESSIONS OF AN INQUIRING SPIRIT*, by S. T. COLERIDGE, p. 85. 1840.

^b The following anecdote is told of William Collins by Dr. Johnson, who visited the unfortunate poet at Islington:

"He had withdrawn from study, and travelled with no other book than an English Testament, such as children carry to school. When his friend took it into his hand out of curiosity to see what companion a man of letters had chosen, 'I have but one book,' said Collins, 'but that is the best.'"—*JOHNSON'S LIVES OF THE POETS*.

This interesting fact supplied Flaxman with a subject for the monument erected in Chichester Cathedral to the memory of Collins. Hayley, in speaking of the poet, thus concludes his epitaph:

"Who join'd pure faith to strong poetic powers;
Who, in reviving reason's lucid hours,
Sought on one book his troubled mind to rest,
And rightly deem'd the Book of God the best."

* "It is a remarkable story which Plutarch relates of a Spartan, who meeting Diagoras, that had himself been crowned in the Olympian games, and seen his sons and grandchildren victors, embraced him, and said, 'Die, Diagoras, for thou canst not be a god.'"—*POTTER'S ANTIQUITIES OF GREECE*, vol. i. chap. xxi.

^d Pierre du Terrail, born in the Chateau de Bayard, in Dauphiny, in 1476, was known as the Chevalier Bayard, *the good knight, without fear and without reproach—Sans peur, et sans reproche*. A noble description, when taken in a religious point of view. It is fear—the fear of men, and of "the world's dread laugh,"—that has caused many a young soldier and servant of Christ to fall from his allegiance.

* This bird is said to be very attentive to its young ones, until they are able to take care of themselves.

The allusions to the Eagle in the Bible are frequent. God's care of His people is set forth, in the song of Moses, under the following similitude:—"As an Eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead him."—*Deut. xxxii. 11, 12*.

^f The Rev. G. White, in his account of Selborne, has some interesting remarks on the attention shown by birds to their helpless brood:—"The

more I reflect on the instinctive affection of animals for their young, the more am I astonished at its effects. This affection quickens the invention, and sharpens the sagacity of the brute creation. Thus a hen, just become a mother, is no longer the placid bird she used to be; but, with feathers on end, wings hovering, and clucking note, she runs about like one possessed. Mothers will throw themselves in the way of the greatest danger, to defend their young. A partridge will tumble along before a sportsman, in order to draw away the dogs from her helpless covey. In the time of nest-building, the most feeble birds will assault the most rapacious. All the swallows and martins of a village are up in arms at the sight of a hawk, whom they will persecute till he leaves the district."

s "Think nothing gain'd," he cries, "till nought remain."

JOHNSON'S VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES.

See Phil. iii. 12—14.

^h For an account of the wisdom of Solomon, see 1 Kings iv. 29, to the end.

ⁱ This is a true story, related of Sir John Gayer, Knight, citizen and merchant of London. He was Sheriff in the year 1635, and Lord Mayor in 1646. His providential rescue from a lion, in an African desert, under very remarkable circumstances, is annually commemorated, on the 16th of October, by a sermon in the church of St. Katherine Cree, Leadenhall-street, London; the worthy knight having resided in that parish. He also left a considerable sum as a thank-offering, for the benefit of the poor of his neighbourhood. This sum is annually distributed.

^j To this word in behalf of the religious efforts of our Church Societies in the colonies and dependencies of the British empire, may be added the following, by way of illustration:—

The Bishop of Nova Scotia, in adverting to the benefits which his diocese had received from the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," wrote as follows:—"The objects and operations of the Society have thus been made known extensively, and the blessings it has dispensed are as extensively felt, and have prompted many a prayer for the favour of Heaven upon all its labours. Many a solitary dwelling in the wilderness has been made to rejoice by the Society's benevolence; and scarcely a settlement can be found in the wild forests of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or in the islands of Prince Edward, Newfoundland, or Bermuda, where some of its treasure is not deposited."

The Report of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel" for 1843 contains the following passage:

"Great Britain is continually sending forth her redundant population to occupy the void places of the earth. Colonization has become part of our national policy; and tens of thousands of our labourers and artisans are every year leaving their homes for Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

A field, therefore, of almost boundless extent is opening before us. The scattered children of our own country and communion have plainly the first claim upon our sympathy; but we owe a debt also to the many millions of heathens, who, by conquest or negotiation, have become subjects of the British Crown."

* "In those days of chivalry, so constantly was the Peacock the object of the solemn vows of the knights, that its image was hung up in the place where they exercised themselves in the management of their horses and weapons, &c."—BISHOP STANLEY'S HISTORY OF BIRDS, vol. ii., p. 102. Ed. 1840.

† "Bright Argus' blazing eye."—SPENSER'S SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR.

"He that goes a borrowing,
Goes a sorrowing.

This old proverb may be illustrated by the following anecdote:—"Thomas Sackville, the first Lord Buckhurst, and Earl of Dorset, a statesman and poet, having wasted his fortune, was so pained at being kept for a long time in a waiting-room, at the house of a citizen to whom he went for the purpose of borrowing money, that he resolved from that time to become economical; and thus he retrieved his estate, which might else have been kept out of his hands as long as he lived. In the interval during which he was expecting a summons to the rich man's presence, he had probably contrasted his own dependent condition with the comfort and influence enjoyed by one who was his inferior in rank and talents; and the busy scene around him had suggested some wholesome self-reproach on idleness and improvidence, and on those many needless wants of his, which his inherited wealth had been unable to satisfy. Having turned his sorrow and dejection of mind to a good account, he was afterwards received into the favour of Queen Elizabeth, and employed by her in many important affairs."—DEBT; ITS PERIL, PAINS, AND PENALTIES.

"That she may feel
How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
To have a thankless child."—KING LEAR.

THE END.



